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Agenda item 5

**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

Letter dated 27 June 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In accordance with paragraph 6 (h) of General Assembly resolution ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006, I have the honour to transmit herewith a progress report of the Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the General Assembly.

(Signed) BAN Ki-moon



Annex

Letter dated 10 June 2011 from the members of the Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to provide a progress report of the Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory for transmission to the General Assembly in accordance with paragraph 6 (h) of resolution ES-10/17.

(Signed) Ronald **Bettauer**
Member of the Board

(Signed) Harumi **Hori**
Member of the Board

(Signed) Matti **Pellonpää**
Member of the Board

Progress report of the Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

1. The Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (the Register of Damage) provides this progress report, in accordance with paragraph 6 (h) of General Assembly resolution ES-10/17, covering the period from 19 June 2010 to 10 June 2011. The Board's previous report was contained in document A/ES-10/498 of 19 July 2010.
2. During the reporting period, the Register of Damage continued to collect, process and consider claim forms for inclusion in the Register in accordance with its Rules and Regulations Governing Registration of Claims adopted in June 2009 (see [www.unrod.org/docs/UNRoD Rules and Regulations.pdf](http://www.unrod.org/docs/UNRoD_Rules_and_Regulations.pdf)).
3. A community outreach campaign was completed in 87 communities in the governorates of Jenin, Tubas, Tulkarem and Qalqiliya in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as well as in some communities around East Jerusalem. Hundreds of printed posters and thousands of leaflets were distributed to inform more than 260,000 affected Palestinians of the requirements for completing a claim for registration of damage. In addition, over 200 meetings were held by Register of Damage claim intakers with mayors, local councils and potential claimants in the areas covered by the outreach campaign.
4. By 10 June 2011, a total of 18,007 claim forms for registration of damage and over 170,000 supporting documents had been collected in 76 Palestinian communities and delivered to the Office of the Register of Damage in Vienna. Claim intake activities have been completed in Tubas and Jenin governorates and have almost been completed in Tulkarem governorate. The work is at an advanced stage in Qalqiliya governorate, including its urban areas.
5. As of 10 June 2011, the Board has reviewed 3,255 claim forms, decided to include most or all of the losses set out in 2,977 claim forms, excluded 272 claim forms where none of the losses met the eligibility criteria and decided to defer action on 6 claim forms pending further review. While the pace of processing claim forms by the secretariat of the Register of Damage and their review by the Board has increased, the collection of claim forms has increased at a significantly faster rate.
6. Since its previous report, the Board has held four meetings in Vienna to review claim forms that had been translated, processed and reviewed by the Office staff. The Board met from 13 to 17 September 2010, from 13 to 17 December 2010, from 14 to 18 March 2011 and from 6 to 10 June 2011. At the four meetings, respectively, the Board reviewed and decided to include in the Register most or all of the losses set out in 301 claim forms, 323 claim forms, 400 claim forms and 402 claim forms. At its December and March meetings, respectively, the Board decided not to include in the Register 109 claim forms and 161 claim forms, since none of the losses in the forms met the eligibility criteria in the Register of Damage's Rules and Regulations. At its March and June meetings, the Board also decided to defer action on a total of four claim forms pending further review.

7. All claims reviewed during the reporting period were filed by individuals. The forms included 1,554 claims for category A (agriculture) losses, 177 claims for category B (commercial) losses and 16 claims for category C (residential) losses.

8. Some of the issues addressed and the decisions reached by the Board during the reporting period are set out below.

General issues

9. The Board continued its exploration of difficult issues regarding local rules, practice and documentation relating to the ownership and inheritance of land in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in order to determine whether the claimant had a prima facie legal interest in land, and to determine the claimant's share. Complex fractional calculations are often necessary in cases where there are multiple owners, in order to record a claimant's specific share of the losses to be included in the Register.

10. The Board decided that some form of corroboration was necessary for losses to be included in the Register under the eligibility criteria set out in the Register of Damage's Rules and Regulations. Such corroboration might include supporting documentation provided by claimants, for example tax records, contracts, certificates of legacy, pay slips, bank statements or cancelled cheques.

11. In addition, the Board decided not to include losses that were duplicative of losses already included by the claimants in other parts of their claims.

Category A (agricultural) claims

12. The Board decided not to include in the Register claims for losses pertaining to land requisitioned between 1967 and the 1990s, prior to the construction of the Wall. Since those claimants either had no access to the land or, where they had restricted access, could not use the land from the time it was requisitioned, the Board decided that no material loss had been sustained as a result of the construction of the Wall and that any losses that were sustained had occurred prior to the construction of the Wall.

13. The Board decided not to include in the Register losses relating to reduced agricultural output due to the prohibition on the import of fertilizers from Israel into the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Board noted that Israeli restrictions in that regard existed prior to the construction of the Wall and decided that such restrictions were not attributable to the Wall.

Category B (commercial) claims

14. The Board decided not to include in the Register commercial claims for losses pertaining to events that had occurred prior to the construction of the Wall.

15. The Board decided that commercial losses resulting from the reduction of customers from Israel who could no longer visit businesses in the Occupied Palestinian Territory could be caused by the construction of the Wall and included in the Register.

16. The Board decided that losses based on asserted monopoly pricing imposed by wholesale traders from Israel with access to the Occupied Palestinian Territory were not normally attributable to the Wall and should not normally be included in the Register.

Category C (residential) claims

17. The Board decided that losses relating to land that was intended for the construction of houses, when claimed under other categories of losses, should be recategorized and reviewed as category C (residential) claims.

Category D (employment) claims

18. The Board continued its consideration of the issues surrounding category D (employment) claims. The Office of the Register of Damage is in the process of gathering additional information on employment issues within the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and the Board will continue to review the category D claims submitted by claimants from different locations.

19. In view of the number of claims presented to the Board at each of its meetings, in accordance with article 12 of its Rules and Regulations, the Board continued to employ sampling in conducting its review. In addition, the Board considered claims grouped together at the intake, processing and review stages on the basis that they had been submitted by members of the same families and the losses claimed were essentially similar. This approach significantly expedited the review process and the work of the Register of Damage.

20. As before, the Board expresses its appreciation for the indispensable cooperation extended by the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian National Committee for the Register of Damage, as well as for the support provided by local mayors and members of village councils on many practical aspects, without which outreach and claim-intake activities could not be undertaken successfully. As for the Government of Israel, the Board continues to consider that any claims in relation to damage caused by the construction of the Wall should be addressed through the existing Israeli mechanism. On the practical level, the Register of Damage maintains constructive contacts with relevant Israeli authorities and, during the reporting period, it did not experience any problems with access, freedom of movements, security, delivery of needed materials or issuance of required visas. In addition, on some occasions during the general closures in the West Bank, Israel Defense Forces facilitated the travel of Register of Damage teams through alternative entry and exit points to access Palestinian municipalities in the West Bank.

21. The Board of the Register of Damage noted with satisfaction the cooperation with United Nations agencies and offices present on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as called upon in paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution ES-10/17. The Board particularly appreciates the efficient and tangible contribution provided by the United Nations Office for Project Services in the areas of logistic, procurement, human and financial resources, and management in support of the Register of Damage. During the reporting period, the Register of Damage benefited from cooperation with the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and his Office, as well as from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, which effectively contributed to outreach activities in communities in Tulkarem and Qalqiliya governorates.

22. The outreach and claim-intake activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which are currently conducted by 12 Register of Damage claims intakers, have been funded by contributions from the Governments of Austria, Belgium, Finland,

France, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, the Philippines, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund for International Development. The Board expresses its appreciation to these donors for providing funding and political support enabling the implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution ES-10/17.

23. The Board commends the diligent and dedicated work of the secretariat, which faces an increasing workload.

24. The Board of the Register of Damage will continue to provide periodic reports.

Members of the Board of the Register of Damage

Vienna, 10 June 2011

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Security Council**Distr.: General
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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5**Security Council**
Sixty-sixth year**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and
the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory****Identical letters dated 6 July 2011 from the Permanent Observer of
Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
and the President of the Security Council**

I regret to inform you that the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, has continued to deteriorate as result of ongoing illegal policies and actions and relentless provocations by Israel, the occupying Power, and its illegal settlers. The situation is highly volatile and unsustainable and requires urgent redress by the international community to bring a halt to the massive violations that continue to be perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people and to salvage the chances for peace that remain before us.

Far from seeking to make peace, Israel is actually intensifying its violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in all areas with the aim of entrenching its control of the Palestinian land and its subjugation of the Palestinian people. The occupying Power's illegal and aggressive actions continue to exacerbate the already harsh conditions being endured by the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation, and to undermine the international efforts to resume peace negotiations on the basis of the two-State solution based on the pre-June 1967 borders.

In the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian civilian population continues to be collectively punished by the occupying Power's ruthless, illegitimate blockade that has now entered its fifth year. Reconstruction of damaged and destroyed homes and vital infrastructure continues to be impeded by the blockade and Israel's ongoing restrictions on entry of construction and other essential materials, further delaying and complicating recovery efforts. The blockade continues to deepen poverty in Gaza, as restoration of livelihoods and the normal functioning of businesses also continue to be obstructed, due to continued severe restrictions on imports and exports, ensuring that the unemployment level, which now stands at around a shocking 65 per cent of the population, remains high, and that aid dependency also remains staggering at nearly 80 per cent.



In this regard, it must be clarified that, despite so-called "measures to ease" the blockade, Israel continues to impose a land, air and naval blockade on the Gaza Strip in total defiance of the repeated calls by the international community, including by Member States in United Nations resolutions and official statements and declarations and by civil society from all corners of the world. In this regard, the Palestinian people and their leadership recognize with deepest respect and gratitude the efforts of the hundreds of civil society activists, including those partaking in the Freedom Flotilla, who are exerting noble efforts to draw attention to Israel's cruel blockade of the Gaza Strip, to mobilize international action to compel the occupying Power to end the blockade, and to deliver needed humanitarian aid and moral support to the Palestinian people in Gaza.

The occupying Power also continues to commit acts of military aggression against the Gaza Strip. In recent days, the Israeli occupying forces launched air strikes against areas in central Gaza. In such an attack yesterday, 5 July, the occupying forces killed two Palestinian men, Mohammed Sa'eed Abu Jazar and Kamal Abu Muammar, and wounded one man and today another man was also wounded in a separate airstrike that also caused substantial damage to property. In this regard, it must be underscored that such military attacks against civilian areas are unlawful under international humanitarian law and constitute grave acts of terror, provocation and incitement against the Palestinian people.

At the same time, Israel has been unrelenting in its illegal drive to colonize the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially areas in and around Occupied East Jerusalem. In the recent period, land confiscations, settlement construction and home demolitions have intensified as the occupying Power clearly seeks to create even more illegal facts on the ground and forcibly alter the demographic composition of the Territory in the face of mounting international demands and pressure to bring an end to the occupation that began in 1967. Indeed, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to flagrantly violate its legal obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and under relevant United Nations resolutions and to blatantly defy the international community's continuous calls for an immediate cessation of all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

While it is not possible in such a brief letter to enumerate in detail the scope and scale of Israel's colonization activities in the recent period, the following regrettable developments give an indication of the severity and extent of such violations, which continue to receive the support of Israeli officials, including the Prime Minister, Defence and other Ministers, Knesset parliamentarians and others:

- On 19 June, it was reported that Israel approved the expansion of 2,000 units in the illegal settlement of "Ramat Shlomo". This was announced in addition to the early declaration to construct another 1,500 units in the illegal settlements of "Har Homa" (Jabal Abu Ghneim) and "Pisgat Ze'ev".
- At the start of this month, tenders were issued for the construction of 300 units in the illegal settlement of "Beitar Elit" in addition to another 40 units and 46 units in the illegal settlements of "Efrat" and "Shomron" in the Bethlehem and Nablus areas respectively.

- On 1 July, confiscation orders were issued for another 189 dunums of land in the village of Qaryut near Nablus, an area that is surrounded by seven illegal Israeli settlements.
- Demolition of Palestinian homes and structures in East Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley continued, with a report revealing that demolitions in the Jordan Valley alone have displaced and left homeless more than 700 Palestinians since the start of this year. A recent report by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East has shown that in the month of May alone, home demolitions in the West Bank and particularly in East Jerusalem displaced 67 children, a record high this year.
- The Israeli Interior Minister announced recently the intention to further expand the municipal boundaries of Occupied East Jerusalem, with the aim of incorporating within the City's boundaries yet another illegal settlement.
- On 3 July, the Israeli Transport Minister provocatively proposed the "Hebrewizing" of road signs and town names, especially in Occupied East Jerusalem, with the aim of further Judaizing the city.

At the same time, illegal Israeli settlers, many of them armed extremists, have intensified their acts of terror and destruction throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. On 7 June, settlers set fire to a mosque in the village of Al-Mughayyir near Ramallah and defiled its walls with graffiti. This shocking act of terror was claimed to have been committed as part of the settlers' so-called "price tag" policy aimed at sabotaging any attempts to cease settlement construction or dismantle so-called "outposts". Settlers also continued to attack Palestinian agricultural properties, with armed settlers torching dozens of Palestinian olive trees in Bil'in and setting fire to at least 15 dunums of farmland in an area south of Nablus in mid-June. These depraved acts followed the provocations and incitement exhibited by extremist settlers during the so-called "Jerusalem Day" events in early June, when, under the protection of the occupying forces, settlers marched through the city harassing, intimidating and threatening the Palestinian civilian population.

In addition to all of the above, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to raid West Bank villages and to detain and imprison Palestinian civilians, adding to the thousands who remain in Israeli jails and exacerbating the hardships endured by their families. Last month, the Israeli Prime Minister declared Israel's plans to further "toughen" conditions on Palestinians prisoners, who already suffer under inhumane and unhygienic conditions in violation of international humanitarian and human rights law.

This is just a synopsis of the extremely disturbing and deplorable conditions being endured by the Palestinian people under Israel's occupation. It is a situation that continues to heighten tensions and sensitivities and to mar the hopes for a peaceful and secure future, free from foreign occupation and all of its attendant brutalities. It is a situation that is undermining all regional and international efforts aimed at justly and peacefully resolving the conflict and is threatening to destroy the two-State solution, making it less and less viable with each passing day.

Nevertheless, the Palestinian people and their leadership remain committed to the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-June 1967 borders and remain committed to peaceful, diplomatic, political and non-violent means to achieve this goal and to achieve the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and their

legitimate national aspirations. Accordingly, the Palestinian leadership will continue to exert all efforts to gain support for its continuing endeavour to bring a complete end to the Israeli military occupation in all its manifestations and to ensure the realization of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital at the earliest possible date.

We call upon the international community, including the Security Council, to uphold their responsibilities in this regard and to act upon their legal obligations to address the ongoing violations being committed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Only serious, coordinated action can compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease forthwith all its illegal activities and to commit to peaceful negotiations based on the internationally-endorsed parameters enshrined in the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 394 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 6 June 2011 (A/ES-10/521-S/2011/343) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador

Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

**Identical letters dated 19 July 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the
President of the Security Council**

It is with grave concern that I draw your attention to the escalation of Israel's illegal practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Since our last letter to you, dated 6 July 2011, the Israeli occupying forces have continued to use excessive and lethal force against Palestinian civilians, including via massive air strikes against the besieged Gaza Strip, causing civilian casualties as well as destruction to Palestinian homes and properties and natural resources, such as wells. At the same time, the occupying Power is recklessly continuing its massive and illegal colonial settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, gravely undermining the contiguity and integrity of the Territory and taking us farther away from realizing the two-State solution based on pre-June 1967 borders.

At the outset, we are compelled to once again underscore the grave situation in the besieged Gaza Strip, in which over 1.5 million Palestinians continue to suffer immeasurably as a result of Israel's illegal blockade, which has been imposed on them for more than four years now. This inhumane and most unjust situation continues to raise the deep concern of people from all over the region and the world, expressed, *inter alia*, in acts of solidarity such as the "Freedom Flotilla". In this regard, we express our serious concern about the boarding and seizure of a French civilian boat, the *Dignité-al Karama*, today in the Mediterranean Sea by Israeli military ships and marine troops. The *Dignité-al Karama* had been sailing to the Gaza Strip to deliver much-needed support to the population there, and the international community must demand that its passengers and the vessel be treated with full respect and accorded the necessary protection under international humanitarian law.

The situation in the Gaza Strip is also worsening as a result of a series of military air strikes that have been carried out by Israel, the occupying Power. These



attacks have caused scores of injuries among Palestinian civilians, including children, such as the attack on Beit Hanoun on 17 July in which seven people from one family, including four children, were critically injured. The Israeli occupying forces also recently launched attacks on eight Palestinian fishing boats as well as an international boat that monitors the situation on the Gaza coastline. The excessive and indiscriminate fire caused serious damage to the boats, further undermining the livelihoods of the fishermen whose families depend on these boats for their income and survival.

These military attacks have intensified fear and panic among the entire Palestinian civilian population and serve as further evidence that the occupying Power plans to continue with its violent terror campaign against the Gaza Strip. In this regard, Israeli war planes recently dropped thousands of leaflets over Gaza "warning" residents not to go near the so-called buffer zone imposed by the occupying Power, similar to leaflets dropped during its 22-day military aggression against the Gaza Strip in which more than 1,400 civilians were killed, including hundreds of children and women.

The Israeli occupying forces also continue to unleash violence against the Palestinian people in the Occupied West Bank. On 13 July 2011, in Al-Fara'a refugee camp, near the West Bank city of Nablus, Israeli occupying forces shot and killed a young university student, 21-year-old Ibrahim Omar Sarhan, as he was leaving a mosque. The Israeli soldiers prevented ambulances from providing emergency aid to the victim, and he was left to bleed to death.

Such military raids have been increasing throughout the West Bank. The occupying forces even recently raided a summer camp for children in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of Occupied East Jerusalem, forcing the children to endure interrogations. The Israeli occupying forces also continue to use excessive force against peaceful civilian protesters, intimidating the protesters and typically causing injury among them. This includes an incident on 12 July in which the occupying forces fired stun grenades and tear gas canisters at protesters who had gathered in Al-Khalil (Hebron) to demonstrate against the illegal Israeli settlements.

At the same time, Israel, the occupying Power, continues and is intensifying its illegal and destructive settlement campaign, in a clear attempt to further colonize the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and create even more illegal alterations to the demographic composition, character and status of the Territory. This settlement campaign is being carried out by Israel in violation of its legal obligations under international law and United Nations resolutions, its obligations under the Quartet road map, which calls in unequivocal terms for the freezing of all settlement activities and the dismantlement of so-called "outposts".

In recent weeks, the Israeli Government has made a series of provocative announcements on its plans and intentions to further unlawfully confiscate and colonize Palestinian property and land. This includes, inter alia, the recent decision to expropriate large areas of Palestinian farmland in the Bethlehem area for the expansion of the illegal "Efrata" settlement; the approval by the occupying Power of the construction of 336 more settlement units in the so-called settlements of "Beitar-Ilit" in Occupied East Jerusalem and "Karnei Shomron" west of Nablus; and the razing of 35 dunums of Palestinian land and confiscation of irrigation networks in the Baq'a area east of Al-Khalil. We again appeal to the international community to uphold their legal obligations in this regard. Israel must be held accountable for its

flagrant breaches in order to bring an end to this illegal, provocative policy that is narrowing the chances for achieving a just and viable peace with every passing day.

The extremist Israeli settlers have also further escalated their campaign of terror against Palestinian civilians and their villages across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Settlers continue to harm and injure Palestinian civilians, including shepherds tending to their sheep, and to vandalize and destroy Palestinian properties and agricultural fields and crops, and the harassment and intimidation of Palestinian civilians, including children, continues unabated. On 10 July, an Israeli settler ran over and seriously injured a 6-year-old Palestinian child near Bethlehem. Just yesterday, 18 July, three Palestinian shepherds, who were herding their sheep on a hillside near the town of Mikhmas north-east of Jerusalem, were beaten and stabbed by Israeli settlers. Reports reveal that, in June 2011 alone, more than 139 settler attacks were perpetrated against Palestinian civilians and properties, including the destruction of over 3,600 olive trees and vineyards.

Extremist Israeli settlers have in the recent period also attacked international peace activists in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. On 18 July, two civilians affiliated with "Operation Dove" and one civilian with the "Christian Peacemaker Teams" were attacked by Israeli settlers using clubs and stones in an area near Al-Khalil (Hebron). In light of the continuation of such crimes, we must reiterate that Israel, the occupying Power, bears full responsibility for the illegal presence and all the illegal actions of its settlers, and we call upon the international community to apply the necessary pressure on the Israeli Government to immediately bring an end to the terror campaign being perpetuated by them against the defenceless Palestinian civilian population.

The current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, reveals an escalation of illegal Israeli acts of aggression, provocation and destruction. It seems clear that the intent of the occupying Power is to entrench its illegitimate military occupation and to instigate yet another cycle of deadly violence between the two sides. Israel continues to reject the minimal basis necessary for resuming credible peace negotiations in accordance with the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-June 1967 borders, and, instead of making any real effort to create an environment conducive to negotiations, Israel is actually intensifying its violations of international law, further destabilizing the situation on the ground and seriously undermining all efforts to resume the peace process and sabotaging the two-State solution itself.

As we have stated before, we emphasize once again that the Palestinian leadership is committed to peace and the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, and will continue to exert all efforts to achieve the legitimate national goals of the Palestinian people, including their right to exercise self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital. The marked rise in Israel's illegal, provocative and unilateral acts, which are obstructing the goal of an independent, contiguous and viable State of Palestine, only serves to further convince the Palestinian leadership that the United Nations, in accordance with the principles enshrined in its Charter, is the appropriate venue to multilaterally pursue these legitimate and internationally supported goals.

There is no time to be spared, and we thus renew our appeal to the international community, including the Security Council, to uphold their responsibilities and to take immediate, decisive action to bring Israel, the occupying Power, into compliance with international law, including its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, relevant United Nations resolutions and the Quartet road map. This is urgent to salvage the two-State solution of an independent, sovereign and viable State of Palestine, living side by side with Israel in peace and security on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 395 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 6 July 2011 (A/ES-10/523-S/2011/414), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Sixty-sixth year**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and
the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory****Identical letters dated 20 July 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the
President of the Security Council**

In follow-up to my letter dated 19 July 2011, regarding the intensification of illegal Israeli practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, I am compelled to draw your attention to the critical situation of Palestinian prisoners being held by Israel, the occupying Power.

The plight of Palestinian prisoners continues to deteriorate due to escalating violations, most notably following the recent declaration by the Israeli Prime Minister of plans to further "toughen" their conditions, in grave violation of international humanitarian and human rights law. It must be recalled that more than 6,000 Palestinian civilians, including at least 245 children and 37 women, as well as 19 elected officials, continue to be imprisoned or arbitrarily detained by Israel. The majority of Palestinian families continue to be affected by the occupying Power's imprisonment of their family members, particularly men who represent the head of their households, and the attendant social, economic and psychological consequences are vast and continue to cause great suffering and hardship to these families.

The overwhelming majority of the Palestinian prisoners and detainees continue to suffer from deplorable and inhumane conditions and treatment in violation of their most basic human rights and the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law. It is a well known fact that Palestinians being held in Israeli prisons and detention centres are routinely subjected to psychological and physical maltreatment, harassment and intimidation, unsanitary and unhygienic conditions, inadequate health care, forced interrogations, denial of due process, restrictions of family visits, solitary confinement, and, in many cases, torture. Moreover, in direct contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention, thousands of Palestinian prisoners and detainees have been transferred by Israel, the occupying Power, outside of the



Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, to prison facilities inside Israel.

In this regard, I must draw your immediate attention in particular to the dire health conditions of three Palestinian prisoners, Yousef Skafi, Atef Wreidat and Maisara Abu Hamdiyye, who have been on a hunger strike for more than 30 days, since 12 June 2011, in the Israeli prison of Asqalan as a result of the occupying forces' rejection of their humanitarian requests to be moved to another prison so that they may receive proper health care for the conditions from which they are suffering, including diabetes, hypertension and heart and kidney problems. These prisoners have also been subjected to a ban on family visits and monetary fines. Today, Skafi and Wreidat were transferred to the Al-Ramleh prison hospital due to health deterioration that threatens their lives. They remain in critical condition, and a medical examination has revealed that Skafi's body is beginning to rot. In this connection, we believe it must be noted that Skafi's 11-year-old daughter, Abeer, died two months ago after suffering a severe nervous breakdown and coma following the obstruction of her visit to her father in prison. We urge the international community to give the necessary attention to this grave issue.

It must be underscored that Israel has not for one moment ceased its military arrest campaign throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, with arrests and detentions being carried out on a near daily basis. In addition to continuously adding to the ranks of imprisoned and detained Palestinian civilians, these arrests are often carried out in the context of violent military raids that cause death and injury to civilians, including children, damage to homes and properties, and cause widespread fear among the Palestinian population. Moreover, the Israeli occupying forces continue to use Palestinian civilians as human shields during these arrest raids.

In recent days, the Israeli occupying forces arrested 11 Palestinian youths in the Silwan neighbourhood of East Jerusalem. In this connection, we are compelled to highlight the extremely troubling situation of Palestinian children who continue to be arrested and detained by Israel, the occupying Power. A recent report by the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem, entitled "No Minor Matter", reveals extensive Israeli violations of the rights of Palestinian children accused of stone throwing and their physical and psychological mistreatment during arrest.

In this regard, the report found that the children are often arrested by the Israeli occupying forces in the middle of the night, violently seized from their homes and taken alone to interrogations, without being able to consult an attorney or even their parents. Moreover, it was found that the occupying forces typically coerce the children to plead guilty to supposedly avoid a lengthy pre-trial detention, with the children subsequently actually sentenced to prison terms. Out of the hundreds upon hundreds of Palestinian children arrested (aged 17 or younger) for stone throwing between 2005 and 2010, only one was acquitted and the rest all sentenced to prison. We urgently call on the international community to compel Israel to release all Palestinian children detained and imprisoned and to accord all Palestinian prisoners their full rights under international law.

The grave situation of Palestinian civilians in Israeli jails and detention centres remains an issue of great concern and of priority for the Palestinian people and their leadership. Illegal Israeli actions in this regard and the poor health conditions of several prisoners in particular warrant serious attention by the international

community. The occupying Power must be held to the same standard of international law to which all countries are held and it must therefore be demanded that Israel comply with all of its legal obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law vis-à-vis the Palestinian prisoners it continues to imprison and detain.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 395 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 19 July 2011 (A/ES-10/524-S/2011/439) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Feda Abdelhady-Nasser
Chargé d'affaires a.i.